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LETTER DATED 4 DECEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter dated 4 December 1996 from the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Abkhazia, Mr. T. Nadareishvili, addressed to the Secretary-General, concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia (see annex).

May I ask your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

96-35063 (E) 041296

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Annex

Letter dated 4 December 1996 from the Chairman of the Supreme Council of Abkhazia addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the authorities of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic and the hundreds of thousands of refugees who have been forced to leave their native place, allow me to express our deep gratitude to the United Nations, the Security Council and personally to you, Your Excellency, for the tireless efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, in particular, for the firm and clear position taken by the United Nations towards the illegal parliamentary elections held by the present separatist leadership on 23 November 1996.

Prior to the armed conflict, the population of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic, which is historically an integral part of Georgia, consisted of 530,000 citizens. At present, more than 400,000 of the indigenous inhabitants have been forced to change their fate.

Having chosen an anti-Georgian policy based since the very beginning on false ideology, the present separatist leadership still continues its destructive political course, ignoring the human rights of hundreds of thousands of civilians. Moreover, new criminal acts are taking place in the region, including the so-called parliamentary elections in Abkhazia, which were organized without the presence of the overwhelming majority of expelled voters.

About 240,000 of the participants in the plebiscite living outside the territory of Abkhazia have condemned the "electoral campaign" carried out by the separatist forces and, inter alia, once again recognized their policy of genocide and ethnic cleansing.

Nowadays there is neither war nor peace in Abkhazia. Under these circumstances the patience of the plebiscite's participants has reached its climax. This explosive atmosphere constitutes a real threat to a new wave of conflict escalation. The refugees demand that the Georgian Government take imperative and decisive measures to speed up the process of their return to Abkhazia.

Expressing the will of the refugees and displaced persons and based on the results of the plebescite, the Supreme Council of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic appeals to the United Nations to adopt the measures necessary to evaluate the parliamentary elections in Abkhazia and to contribute to the beginning of the process of the refugees' guaranteed return to their permanent places of residence.

(Signed) T. NADAREISHVILI
Chairman of the Supreme
Council of the Autonomous
Republic of Abkhazia